

**GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE**

**December 12, 2002
Public Services Building, Rooms 2 & 3**

MINUTES

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| MEMBERS PRESENT: | Arthur Garcia | Steve Palma |
| | John Liken | Bill Tripp |
| | Mary Jo Buettner | Joanne Clayton |
| | Bob Strahl | |
| MEMBERS ABSENT: | Al Gore (excused) | |
| | Marco Polo Cortez (excused) | |
| | Michael Spethman (excused) | |
| STAFF PRESENT: | Mark Stephens, Principal Planner | |
| | Dan Forster, Growth Management Coordinator | |
| | Ray Pe, Senior Planner | |
| | Rabbia Phillip, Secretary – GPU | |

1. CALL TO ORDER

GMOC Chairperson Art Garcia called this meeting to order at 6:00p.m. Roll call was taken with Gore, Munoz, Cortez and Spethman being excused from this evening's meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM November 14, 2002

There being no quorum, the minutes were not passed at this time.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public, Mr. Robert Newman, introduced himself as a representative of the US Aquatics Foundation, which he founded. He used this forum to bring to the attention of this subcommittee, his opinion that there are not enough aquatics-type pools in Chula Vista to accommodate the need.

The chairman requested that Mr. Newman restate his name and address, for the record. He supplied the following : Robert Newman, 605 Redlands Place, Bonita 91902 and stated that he has been a Chula Vista/Bonita resident since 1975.

Mr. Newman was invited to speak at the meeting when the Parks & Rec will be addressing the GMOC in January 2003; he will be notified of the exact date.

4. ESTABLISHING THE VISION OF THE COMMITTEE

The facilitators, Sam Gennawey and Pat McLaughlin, of MIG Consultants were introduced. Mr. Gennawey stated that the first order of business should be to establish a vision for the community which would work as a filter for all of the implementation decisions that will be made later on. This body's purpose should be to get its relevant and important issues to the Steering Committee.

Referring to the list of preliminary comments from this subcommittee's last meeting, Mr. Gennawey proposed to create a matrix to put into perspective the items of importance to the public and to this body; to identify opportunities to act on immediately which would take few resources or utilize existing ones; to establish the hard issues which may require large political capital but which are necessary and to identify other ideas of less priority which could facetiously be addressed in the next General Plan Update.

MIG will represent the ideas put forward by the members on a wall graphic that will be a summary of the meeting, in an attempt to tie in the entire meeting and bring it full circle. To start the process of creating the vision for the city, each member of the committee was asked to contribute (without restraints), their individual goal for Chula Vista. The first point raised was that of code enforcement, that the city should be proactive taking care of existing facilities, ensuring equity of standards for all parts of the city and making sure that all parts of the city receives attention so the city can be unified. Another member emphasized the word "parity" to be used in all of the proposals. Mr. Garcia commented that as the services and accessibility begin to change, there will be a separation between the east and west sides of the city. Consequently, there is a great need to support development of the Westside. He also stated a need to have a central arts center, preferably in downtown, which would draw the city's occupants to this area., which should also have associated support outlets, such as restaurants, shops and a hotel.

Ms. Buettner raised the issue of affordable housing being available in all parts of our community and reliable transportation service to the employment centers.

Ms. Clayton commented that city officials needed to be more proactive, not be afraid of the condemnation and get rid of "eminent domain"

mindset. She noted that the west side is overbuilt and needs attention and improvements. She voiced her support for the previous member's idea of enforcing codes.

The need for parks and open space for the youth to play was raised as very important. Providing areas of multiple activities and interests as alternatives for young people to get involved in the right kinds of activities. It was noted that the present provisions for youth is primarily in athletics and that more attention should be given to other areas of interest not just sports. Through community organizations other activities should be offered, such as art, music and related classes, and since daycare is a high priority and a high-cost commodity, such classes would serve the need. To meet the demand it would be expedient and cost-efficient to have a downtown Performing Arts Center which could serve as a conservatory in the day and a performing venue in the evenings.

It was suggested that the city could partner with non-profit organizations and seek to have community involvement to find the problems and the solutions for the youth of the city.

The committee discussed how services should be perceived – as need driven or community driven and concluded that the citizens should decide how resources should be applied. However, they should be informed on what is available.

It was pointed out that if the west side issues are not addressed, the east side continues to be developed, then the west side will move eastward. One member observed that the city will be defined by how it deals with the west side in this 5-year window of opportunity. It was commented that the development of the east side provides financial resources into the city and the development of the bayfront should be made accessible to the public and not be turned into a wall of high-end hotels or resorts and marinas.

Discussion concurred that the points raised are doable at this time or within the next 5 years, as the recent political changeover could have a positive impact on getting these issues attended to. Several members agreed that redevelopment of 3rd. Avenue and Bay Front should be inclusive in one large project, to incorporate housing, transportation and necessary infrastructure to support it, not just specific areas. All development of the General Plan planning areas should be considered on its effect on the rest of the city as a whole.

It was mentioned that the city should maximize resources, not cut corners in the development of infrastructure which should be undertaken with joint coordination with other agencies; with crucial emphasis on

communication between the agencies. It was stated that the city should look at existing assets and be willing to try out new ideas.

One member of the public voiced her opinion that the city was shrinking the sidewalks, particularly in her area on 'H' Street.

Accessibility of points of interest was a concern, and due to traffic flow/congestion the center of the city was being bypassed, there was no connectivity between eastern and western Chula Vista. Corridors should be developed on human scale to make it a "walkable", safe and pedestrian-friendly city. This will help to reduce the traffic congestion and encourage walking.

Bill Tripp joined the meeting and was invited to comment, he stated that tools were needed to implement policy decisions, codes, zoning ordinances, etc to make these visions a reality or else the outcome of these sessions would be vague and lofty policy documents.

The facilitator noted that there was a consensus of vision, to summarize the discussions that had started with code enforcement, reestablishing rules to a higher standard and ensuring that they are being followed throughout the entire city. There is a rare pervading climate and political will at the present to make this happen; East/West parity, sharing the same standards. As facilitator, MIG will act as a filter, integrating all the information from the 3 subcommittees and bringing that to the steering committee to blend all the visions and recommendations to come up with a; set of standards which will be applied to the rest of the GP process.

Referring to the attached list they moved into another exercise to represent the visions on a wall grid from more to less plotting payoff against effort. Each topic was discussed and plotted along the continuum according to low/high payoff and low/high effort or expenditure of resources.

5. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF COMMUNITY ISSUES RELATED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Input was sought about the relationship between the school districts and the city, as collaboration is needed for weekend use of the school facilities. It was the consensus that cooperation at the elementary level was good but not so at the high school level.

A suggestion for high payoff with low effort on the issue of parks was night lighting of existing fields as San Diego is blessed with good weather for so much of the year. To alleviate the complaints of residents near to such

parks, special lighting strategies can be used to extend the hours of usage.

On the issue of traffic, it was noted that projects are underway at present to ease the situation and in the near future SR125 will further improve things. A suggestion for immediate relief would be to have police presence at the problem intersections to improve the traffic flow.

Landscaping and water usage was discussed and covered different methods of water conservation. The short term supply is secure but problems can be anticipated for the long term for the state, not just for this city, as there is a one source supply. The consensus was that there should be landscaping and vegetation native to the area to avoid waste. One process was to use a weather station which controls the watering for which the homeowners pay a small monthly fee.

There was discussion on the city's need for a performing arts center to have it serve a dual purpose as an event place and a cultural performing center. The business sector has requested this type of facility for many years. The costs could be offset by renting out for functions to organizations and schools in all areas of the city which will help to achieve the vision of parity for the city. This facility could be the centerpiece for the downtown upgrade plan. The Arts Council/Commission should be responsible for arts coordination and Mr. Garcia, a member of it, stated that some input and help is needed for a more vibrant involvement.

Healthcare is an issue that needs attention, it was stated that both Scripps and Sharp facilities are lacking to the extent that they are rerouting emergency patients to other areas.

The committee addressed homelessness as a major issue for attention. One statistic stated that there is 3,000 people sleeping on the streets of San Diego nightly, at present 11% are homeless. The Senior Patrol was commissioned to comb the strip malls in Chula Vista just before opening to get the homeless out of the doorways of the shops. Discussion around this issue concurred that this will only get worse, with the lack of affordable housing, with the development of San Diego, the police moving them out of the Barrio Logan area they will keep moving south right into our city in the near future.

One aspect of the vision for Chula Vista should be as a diverse community and should be accounted into the planning. There should be a celebration of the differences, ethnically, culturally, etc.

The facilitator noted that all the information gathered from the different subcommittees will be forwarded to the Steering Committee, although

there will be issues that will not be General Plan issues but which would reflect social needs. Those will have to be separated from the GP issues and clarified for the community to address. It was agreed that it was important to send good information packaged in a usable manner for existing commission to act upon. Mr. Gennawey stated that an important outcome of these exercises was the identification of the needs and existing resources to meet them, or if the resources are not available, try to create them to meet the needs.

6. OTHER ISSUES

The facilitator informed the committee that the formatted wall graphic will be made available to staff electronically and by hard copy 11 x 17 in the near future and turned the meeting back to the Chairperson.

7. MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2002

There now being a quorum present, a correction to attachment to Agenda under City Image/Spirit should be "Esprit de Corp"

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garcia adjourned the meeting at 8:20p.m. until the next meeting on January 16th, 2003 in Conference Rooms 2 & 3 at 6:00p.m.

Recorded by,

Rabbia Phillip
Secretary, Planning Dept.
Coordinator

Dan Forster
Growth Management